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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : H. NOMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2851

Serial No. : 09/774,111

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed : January 31, 2001

For : LENS BARRIER OPENING/CLOSING DEVICE OF A MOVABLE LENS
BARREL



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 5,159,372, to H. NOMURA, issued October 27, 1992;

U.S. Patent No. 4,989,027, to ISHII et al., issued January 29, 1991;

U.S. Patent No. 5,130,730 to ISHII et al., issued July 14, 1992; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,614,973 to AZEGAMI, issued March 25, 1997.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above documents and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a

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copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,112 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001, and entitled "A Zoom Lens and a Movable Lens Hood Mounting Mechanism of the Zoom Lens";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,123 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001, and entitled "A Zoom Lens Barrel";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,896 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "Zoom Lens Barrel";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,899 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "Can Mechanism for Driving a Linearly-Guided Lens";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,115 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "Lens Frame Guiding Mechanism of a Zoom Lens Barrel";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,114 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "A Zoom Lens Having a Cam Mechanism";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,872 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "A Movable Lens Hood Mechanism of a Zoom Lens";

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U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,113 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "A Mechanism for Rotating a Cam Barrel of a Zoom Lens";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,895 to NOMURA et al., filed January 31, 2001 and entitled "Bayonet Fixed Device of Ring Annular Member for Zoom Lens Having the Same"; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/774,671, to NOMURA et al., filed February 1, 2001 and entitled "A Zoom Lens Assembling Mechanism".

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-noted patent applications, as filed, would normally be attached hereto. However, the copies of the U.S. patent Applications filed January 31, 2001 and February 1, 2001 that are cited herein are not being submitted at this time due to the unusual burden that is believed would be put on the Examiner and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by the total volume and weight of the copies of the ten related applications and thus a waiver of the above-noted Rule is requested. Moreover, complete hard copies of all of the above cited related applications, and the present application, are being submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement in copending, commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/772,896, cited above. If this is not acceptable to the Examiner, Applicants will provide any requested materials.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
H. NOMURA et al.

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